



**Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report
January 25, 2008**

The next full Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) meeting is scheduled for February 11th and 12th in Juneau at Centennial Hall in Sheffield Ballroom Three. The agenda includes an update on the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) Training Strategic Planning Document, Alaska Work Ready/College Ready Initiative, legislative priorities, registered apprenticeship, the AWIB Annual Report to the Legislature, committee reports, and industry panels from the seafood, transportation, and timber sectors.

Last year was a busy year for the AWIB and a lot of progress was made. Two successful AWIB meetings were held last year, and I'm looking forward to a productive year in 2008. On May 8th and 9th an AWIB meeting was held in Juneau and Commissioner Bishop gave his vision of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) job training program as part of AGIA, the Department of Education and Early Development gave a presentation on the Alaska Work Ready/College Ready Initiative, and the DOLWD gave an update on service delivery programs and changes to the Two Year Strategic Plan. Two resolutions were passed by the AWIB including the Alaska Strategic Two Year Plan for PY 07 through 08 and AGIA including a job training program developed by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development that will maximize Alaska hire.

On October 22nd and 23rd an AWIB meeting was held in Fairbanks with presentations on registered apprenticeship, mining and health care industry panels, an update on the AGIA Training Strategic Planning Document, and an update on the Alaska Work Ready/College Ready Initiative. Four resolutions were passed by the AWIB in support of registered apprenticeship as a workforce development strategy of the Alaska Workforce Investment System, the AGIA Training Strategic Planning Document, the Work Ready/College Ready transitional skills curriculum and benchmark assessments, and the concept of a Northwest Arctic Region Statewide Magnet School. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to create a draft training plan template that will be presented at the February meeting to be used for future workforce development plans, including continuing work on existing training plans at the Workforce Readiness/Employment Placement Committee. The October meeting culminated with a tour of the Plumber's and Pipefitter's Apprenticeship School and a tour of the proposed Fairbanks Pipeline Training Facility.

In December, the State Board of Education adopted the Alaska Work Ready/College Ready (Alaska Career Ready) regulations effective for the 2009 – 2010 school year and the draft AGIA Strategic Training Planning Document with four main strategies was completed with input from a Steering Committee, Internal Team, and AWIB Ad Hoc Committee.

Committees have been meeting on a regular basis continuing their work on their Strategic Planning Documents to help guide the priorities of each respective committee. Last year, I had the opportunity for outreach travel to Kotzebue, Donlin Creek Mine, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Palmer, Seward, and Juneau and hope to travel to more communities throughout the state this year.

The Department recently hired Gerry Andrews as the Apprenticeship Coordinator and I would like to commend his efforts on behalf of DOLWD in partnering with the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship to expand registered apprenticeship in Alaska. I'd like to welcome David Stone as the new Deputy Commissioner of DOLWD. David's knowledge from the private sector and expertise in workforce development in Alaska will be a great asset to the Department and the AWIB. I would also like to recognize Dick Cattnach's induction into the 2008 Alaska Business Hall of Fame and for his work with the Association of General Contractors of Alaska.

We are off to a great start, and I appreciate all the time and effort board members devote to the AWIB. In an effort to continue our momentum, the Executive Committee would like to hold three meetings in 2008 and is recommending the next meeting be held at AVTEC in Seward tentatively scheduled for May 19th and 20th, 2008. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to accomplish the workforce development goals of the board.